

[DATE]

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Proposed cuts to aging and disability programs in the May Revise --
OPPOSE**

Dear Governor Newsom:

(I/The your organization name) **strongly oppose/s** proposals in the May Revision of the State Budget that reduce and eliminate programs that protect low income, frail older adults, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers.

Californians over the age of 65 are among the most impacted groups during the COVID-19 crisis, yet the May Revise proposes to slash the programs that serve older Californians in a way that is both ageist and shortsighted. Maintaining cost-effective, community-based health and social service programs and access to healthcare during a pandemic is more critical now than ever.

I/We oppose the following proposals:

- Elimination of Community-Based Adult Services (CBAS) program
- Elimination of Multi-Purpose Senior Services (MSSP)
- Funding cuts to Senior Nutrition, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Aging & Disability Resource Connection programs and Independent Living Centers
- Elimination of the budget augmentation for Caregiver Resource Centers
- Restrictions in Medi-Cal eligibility and loss of optional benefits for older adults and persons with disabilities and cuts to monthly SSI/SSP benefit levels

These cuts would hurt the very individuals you ordered to remain at home when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and who most need additional supports to remain there safely. Any savings derived from cutting these programs will be far outweighed by the costs to the State when older adults or persons with disabilities are hospitalized or placed in nursing homes due to the lack of access to appropriate care.

Please uphold the values expressed in your 2019 Executive Order on the Master Plan for Aging by withdrawing these proposed harmful cuts.

Sincerely,